



Mapping the Cultural Community: A Celebration of Vision

The 2014 spring membership reception, Put Yourself on the Map, embraces the excitement and promise of a new cultural horizon in the Lehigh Valley. On Wednesday, May 28, 2014, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., the Lehigh Valley Arts Council commemorates twenty-five years of service to the region with a look at what the future holds. Join us for a celebration at the sleek, sophisticated headquarters of Lehigh Gas Partners LP in the soaring, new eleven-story tower, Two City Center, which is transforming downtown Allentown.

We are delighted to announce that Joseph V. Topper, Jr., Chairman & CEO of Lehigh Gas Partners LP and partner in City Center Investment Corp, is our host for the event. This annual get-together is a popular occasion for members to renew their connection to the arts and to each other. Members and their guests will enjoy a tour of the fifth-floor offices and expansive views of the Lehigh Valley.

Four prominent cultural leaders will be celebrated for their vision and for taking their organizations in new directions: Greg Funfgeld, Artistic Director & Conductor, and Bridget George, Executive Director, of the Bach Choir of Bethlehem; Ellis Finger, Director of Williams Center for the Arts, Lafayette College; and David Mickenberg, President and CEO of the Allentown Art Museum.

“We chose to celebrate our twenty-fifth anniversary with a nod to the arts community and to the future,” says Randall Forte, executive director. “And of course there will be cake and merriment!”



Festivities will include “mapping the cultural community,” as arts professionals and patrons will be encouraged to mark their location on a large-scale regional map. Guests will be greeted by a visual panoply of images from more than one hundred cultural organizations, highlighting their vision statements.

Generously underwritten by PPL, EBC Printing, and Lehigh Gas Partners LP, light food will be provided. Wine will be available on a cash basis. Members attend for free; nonmembers pay \$10. Reservations are encouraged to expedite check-in at the security desk at Two City Center; please call the Arts Council at 610-437-5915 or register online at LVArtsCouncil.org. Parking is available in the lot on the southwest corner of Seventh and Hamilton streets.

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is the region’s central voice for the arts, promoting arts awareness and advocating its value while strengthening access to the arts for all citizens in our community. The Arts Council’s mission is to promote the arts; to encourage and support artists and their development; to assist arts organizations; and to facilitate communication and cooperation among artists, arts organizations, and the community. Services include arts research and advocacy, professional development seminars, publications, and cooperative regional marketing initiatives.

ARTS COUNCIL MATTERS

Upcoming PPA Grant Opportunity

Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA) is a partnership connecting local artists and nonprofit organizations to the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA). PPA re-grants state funds to support a wide variety of local and community arts activities through its regional partners; the Lehigh Valley Arts Council is entering its tenth year as the PPA Partner that administers these funds in Lehigh, Northampton, and Carbon counties.

The PPA 2014–2015 Project Stream will provide funds of up to \$2,500 to eligible individuals, community groups, and nonprofit organizations to conduct arts projects. These projects must take place between September 1, 2014, and August 31, 2015, and each project (a single

event or a series of activities) must have a significant public component. PPA Project Stream applications are reviewed by an invited panel of Lehigh Valley artists and arts advocates according to criteria provided by the PCA.

The Lehigh Valley Arts Council has accepted project grant requests from as many as sixty applicants in one cycle, and in the most recent fiscal year, we awarded grants to twenty-four projects. Activities successfully receiving PPA project funding have reached a wide range of constituents, from young children to senior citizens. This year's projects are engaging audiences in activities that include visual arts exhibitions; photography; musical performances from opera to jazz; documentary film; storytelling; and dance. Visit www.lvartscouncil.org/programs for more details on the award recipients and their projects.

Project Stream applicants, both new and returning, are encouraged to attend one of three May planning workshops at no charge:

- May 6:** Lehigh Valley Arts Council office
840 Hamilton Street, Allentown
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
- May 8:** Sigal Museum
342 Northampton Street, Easton
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
- May 15:** Mauch Chunk Opera House
14 W. Broadway, Jim Thorpe
Noon to 2 p.m.

Conversations will include a review of the grant application, plans for constructing your narratives and budgets, and expectations for best practices for preparing work samples and supplemental materials. There will be an additional drop-in session for applicants to review their progress on June 3 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in our office at Ninth and Hamilton streets in Allentown. Attendees are encouraged to bring ideas, plans, and questions.

E-mail Marilyn J. Roberts, PPA Coordinator, at ppa@lvartscouncil.org or call 610-437-5915 to share your interest in applying for a Project Stream Grant and attending one of these beneficial workshops. Include your organization and/or artist name, preferred e-mail address, and a brief description of the project you are considering as well as your choice of workshop.

Link to the PCA's eGRANT website after May 1 (<http://ppa.egrant.net>) to register on the application site and to access news about current PPA grant applications. The deadline to submit Project Stream applications to the PCA electronically and to postmark the required forms and supplemental materials to the Lehigh Valley Arts Council is **June 20, 2014**.

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Editor-in-Chief: Randall Forte

Call for submission guidelines. News items must be received by the fifth of the month preceding publication.

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Our Mission:

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The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is a Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts, a program of the PCA.

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THE INSIDE TRACK

Kudos to Muhlenberg College Theatre & Dance Dept. and to guest choreographer

Charlotte Boye-Christensen for the dance work *Key*, which has been selected for the National College Dance Festival being held this June at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Photographer **Lydia Panas's** series "Falling From Grace..." is on view at the Corden Potts Gallery in San Francisco, California, through May 31.

We mourn the passing of musician, employee, and friend of the arts **Kristin Benjamin**, who died of cancer after an eight-year battle. Kristin was a longtime member of the Lehigh Valley Folk Music Society and served as the box office coordinator for the Lehigh Valley Arts Council since 2006. We send our heartfelt condolences to her family.

NEW MEMBERS

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ONE LAST THOUGHT

Arts are the highest form of expression. That truth was made evident to my family when we visited the 9/11 Memorial Plaza in New York City two weeks ago.

Two vast waterfalls and reflecting pools surface from the site of the original Twin Towers and are surrounded by bronze ramparts inscribed with the nearly 3,000 names of the victims. More than 400 swamp white oaks frame the pools and reinforce the spirit of renewal in this sacred space. Only art can transform massive destruction into beauty and hope.

The arts have the power to make our lives better, heal emotional wounds, spark initiative, and broaden perspectives. The Lehigh Valley Arts Council is open to everyone. Please join your voice with ours and help us open the door wider for the arts in the Lehigh Valley.

Randall Forte